



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
Two Gateway Center
Newark, NJ 07102
www.bpu.state.nj.us

Customer Assistance

IN THE MATTER OF MARTHA FISHER,)
PETITIONER v. VERIZON NEW JERSEY,)
RESPONDENT)

ORDER OF EXTENSION

BPU Docket No. TC02080623U
OAL Docket No. PUC 8232-02

(SERVICE LIST ATTACHED)

BY THE BOARD:

On August 30, 2002, pursuant to the terms of a July 25, 2002, order issued by Superior Court Judge Thomas E. O'Brien, petitioner Martha Fisher filed a petition with the Board of Public Utilities (Board), challenging Verizon New Jersey's (Respondent) authority to interrupt local telephone service for non-payment of bills that included charges for long distance service and other service providers when partial payments sufficient to cover local telephone services had been made.

On November 20, 2002, the Board transmitted this matter to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for determination and initial disposition as a contested case pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq. and N.J.S.A. 52:14F-1 et seq. The matter was assigned to Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Anthony T. Bruno. On December 2, 2003, ALJ Bruno filed his Initial Decision, finding that Verizon lacked authority to interrupt Petitioner's local telephone service.

The forty-five (45) day statutory period for the review and rendering of a Final Decision by the Board is to expire on January 16, 2004. However, the Board has determined that it is necessary to extend the effective date by which it must act on the Initial Decision so that it will have sufficient time to examine the record in the case.

The Board has shown good cause why it cannot adopt, modify, or reject the Initial Decision within the statutory time period. Therefore, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-10(c), it is ORDERED that the time for the Board to render a final decision be extended until March 2, 2004.

DATED: 1/9/04

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:

(SIGNED)

JEANNE M. FOX
PRESIDENT

(SIGNED)

FREDERICK F. BUTLER
COMMISSIONER

(SIGNED)

CAROL J. MURPHY
COMMISSIONER

(SIGNED)

CONNIE O. HUGHES
COMMISSIONER

(SIGNED)

JACK ALTER
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

(SIGNED)

KRISTI IZZO
SECRETARY

Martha Fisher v. Verizon New Jersey

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SERVICE LIST

Martha Fisher
408 Anchor Avenue
Beachwood, NJ 08722

Thomas W. Zagorsky, Esq.
Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A.
90 Woodbridge Center Drive
P.O. Box 10
Woodbridge, NJ 07095

Bruce D. Cohen, Esq.
Vice President and General Counsel
Verizon New Jersey, Inc.
540 Broad Street
Newark, NJ 07102

Kent Papsun, Director
Division of Customer Assistance
Board of Public Utilities
Two Gateway Center
Newark, NJ 07102

Jeff Slutzky, Esq.
Division of Law
124 Halsey St. - 5th Floor
Newark, NJ 07102